



THE IRON SOLDIER

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Volume 1, Issue 12
November 15, 2005

Official Newsletter of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team

Al-Anbar Province, Iraq

CORPSMAN CONTINUES TO TREAT MARINES AFTER LOSING LEG

By Cpl. Shane Suzuki

AR RAMADI, Iraq (October 7, 2005) – It is unadulterated courage in the face of horrifying danger and risk. It is knowing your going to lose a leg and still performing under fire. It is taking care of your Marines when everything is on the line. It is duty, courage and love all at once. It is what Nathaniel Leoncio showed the Marines of Company L the morning of Oct. 4.

The mission was to patrol the southern part of Ar Ramadi in support of Operation Bowie, capturing and destroying insurgents and their weapons. However, when the convoy made its way to dirt roads and unincorporated areas that make up the southern part of town, everything changed.

"As soon as we got on the dirt roads, four (Improvised Explosive Devices) went off about two feet from our vehicles," said Cpl. Jason Luedke, a Humvee driver with Company L. "Our Humvee ended up in a three-foot crater. I started pulling Marines out of my vehicle and was trying to find cover when I saw that the Humvee in front of us had been hit and was flipped upside down."

Another Marine in the second vehicle, Cpl. Neil Frustaglio, a vehicle commander for Company L, was one of the first people to rush up to the flipped vehicle.

"After the blast, I looked forward and actually saw the Humvee landing," he said. "I was the first person there, and I heard Leo screaming for help."



Naval Corpsman Nathaniel Leoncio prior to Oct. 4th. The only reason he joined the Navy was to be a corpsman and serve with Marines in Iraq.

Leo is Seaman Leoncio, a Hospitalman assigned to Company L.

"When I came around to his side, I saw that he was caught under the Humvee, that his leg was stuck," said Frustaglio. "I grabbed the edge of the Humvee and lifted it up. I was yelling at him to pull himself out. He struggled to pull himself out from under the Humvee with only his arms. When he got out, that's when I saw his leg was severely injured."

Leoncio had suffered an amputated right leg below the knee, a shattered right femur and serious internal bleeding. However, before he allowed himself to be medically evacuated from the scene, Leoncio began directing the other Marines

at the scene on how to perform aid on himself and the other injured Marines on site, including fourth platoon commander, 2nd Lt. Matthew Hendricks, who suffered serious shrapnel wounds and required immediate evacuation.

"When I got to Hospitalman Leoncio, he immediately began telling me how to care for him," said Cpl. Kurtis Bellmont, an infantryman in Company L. "Before he was even stable, he began asking about the other occupants of the vehicle and trying to assess their injuries. Before he would let us move him to the medevac vehicle, we had to tell him that all of the casualties were receiving medical attention."

The IED completely destroyed the Humvee and resulted in three urgent surgical casualties, one death and one routine casualty. Despite the chaos surrounding the attack, Leoncio kept his calm and bearing and never re-

"I helped pull Hospitalman Leoncio into the medevac Humvee and personally saw him wince in pain as he rolled over, opened his medical kit and treated 2nd Lt. Hendricks's shrapnel wound"

(Continued on page 14)

A MESSAGE FROM IRON 6



COL (P) John L. Gronski
2/28 BCT Commander

As the 2nd Brigade Combat Team moves forward with its mission in Iraq, I am gratified to see the emphasis placed on the concept of TEAM. Over the past several weeks the BCT has made progress in our efforts to neutralize the insurgency in our Area of Operations. The Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Sailors of the Brigade have worked together to make Ramadi a safer place for its citizens. We have pushed the insurgents back on their heels. All battalions and the other combat, combat support, and combat service support elements of the BCT have had an equal hand in our success. This teamwork is a tremendous thing to see.

Everyday our forces display the highest levels of courage. No matter what service the troops are from, they are part of the greatest military on the face of the earth – the American military. We are values based – and when times are the most challenging, the importance of strong values and character wins the day. I am proud to be a member of this outstanding team.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches I give thanks to all the great Americans, Iraqis, and others who have joined together to make Ramadi, the points west to Al Asad and points east to Habbaniyah and Taqaddum a better and a more secure place. This is truly a combined and joint operation. I also want to thank the families and friends of 2nd Brigade Combat Team. I want to thank the families in particular for the tremendous support you provide despite the many sacrifices you make. You keep the home front squared away so our forces can continue to focus on their mission over here in Iraq. Because of your loyalty and support, the true meaning of Thanksgiving shines through.

All One Team!

John L. Gronski - Iron 6

Inside this issue:

Marines & Soldiers Celebrate USMC B-Day	3
A Touch of Home	4
Dealer Company Strikes Again	5
Iraqi Army & U.S. Forces Turn Up Cache	6
The Warrior Within	7
Iron Soldiers in Action	8 & 9
Keeping Task Force Saber Rolling	10
Behind The Scenes in Iraq	11
Mr. Ralston's Class	12
MITT Teams are Building Up ISF	14

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

By 1st. Lt. Rose Forrest

Starting last week, and until 14 December 2005, Soldiers in the 2 BCT can donate money to the charity of their choice through the Combined Federal Campaign. In 2004, CFC raised \$15 million for the participating charities.

CFC is run by Department of Defense and any DOD civilian or Service Member may participate. It is the only organization authorized to solicit Federal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. CFC receives applications from charitable organizations from all over the country, and verifies their legitimacy. It then lists each organization by category in the catalogues. There are approximately 14,000 organizations from which to choose.

To be accepted into the CFC program, the charity must meet particular standards such as spending less than 25% of revenue on overhead. In fact, because CFC consolidates the donations it turns over to the charities, it is the most cost-effective way to donate.

Each Battalion and Separate Company has a CFC Coordinator who will be distributing the pledge cards. Active duty Soldiers with 12 or months left on their enlistment may donate through an allot-

ment on their pay. Cash and checks are also accepted. Tax verification letters will be sent to all contributors who donate over \$250.

For more information, visit www.cfcoversees.org.

Unit Coordinators

The individuals above are the Unit Coordinators for the CFC program. This is a collateral duty and they are using their own time to help out. Please see them if you have any questions.

Area Project Officer 1st. Lt. Rose Forrest
1-110th IN 1LT Antonia Greene
1-109th IN CPT Patrick Monahan
1-172nd AR CPT Rob Molleur
2-222nd FA SFC Kyle Thompson
876th EN CPT Angelo Catalano
228th FSB CPT Jason Guerratez
2-69th AR 1LT Chris Sherbert
3/7 MAR 2nd LT Steve Kelly
HHC BDE PFC Hillary Sweeny
167 CAV 1LT Matthew York
A/138 SI 1SG Rodney Cox
231 MI 1LT Chris Lew

(right) Units compete to raise the most money for charity during the holiday season. CFC will recognize units with high participation rates. Units with 40% participation will receive a Bronze Unit Plaque, 50%-Silver, 60%-Gold, and 85%-Platinum.

MAILING ADDRESSES FOR :

Ar-Ramadi
Soldiers Name
Soldiers Unit
Camp Ar-Ramadi
APO, AE 09362-9997

Habbaniyah / Taqaddum
Soldiers Name
Soldiers Unit
Camp Taqaddum
APO, AE 09381

Al Asad
Soldiers Name
Soldiers Unit
Camp Al Asad
APO, AE 09333

Please take into consideration, when mailing perishables: mail could take up to two weeks to reach Soldiers.



MARINES & SOLDIERS CELEBRATE USMC BIRTHDAY

By Lt. Col. Michael Reilly II

The 10th of November is a day that all Marines past and present stop to recognize the founding of the United States Marine Corps. Even with the high operations tempo here at Camp Ramadi, the Marines proudly serving alongside the Soldiers of 2nd Brigade Combat Team celebrated the birthday of the Corps.

The birthday ceremony is a time honored tradition that is celebrated by all Marines wherever they may be throughout the world.



Marines marched in perfect step during the ceremonial presentation of the USMC Birthday Cake to the head table, at the 6th Civil Affairs Group USMC B-Day celebration.

Photo by Capt. Robert Rowland

This year, every Marine, past and present, takes time to remember the sacrifice made by all Marines over the past 230 years of our long and illustrious history.



Col. John L. Gronski addressed Marines and Soldiers during a birthday ball at Camp Ramadi.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli

In an elaborate ceremony executed in accordance with the Marine Corps Manual, the Marines of Detachment 2 of the 6th Civil Affairs Group (CAG), under the esteemed leadership of Lt. Col. Jim McDonald, coordinated and arranged this honored event.



SFC. Jearald Radovayic and Lcpl Jason Tilley, representing the oldest and youngest Marine during ANGLICO and EODs USMC B-Day ball.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli

Gunnery Sgt. Tim Pride narrated every detail with precise execution.

The Marines were joined by the guest-of-honor Col. Paul Brier, Commanding Officer of the 6th CAG and several distinguished guests to include Col. John L. Gronski, Commanding Officer 2BCT, and both the Sergeants Major of 6th CAG and 2BCT.

The event began with the Commandant's birthday message to all Marines, which is distributed to all commands in the Marine Corps. Once the guest-of-honor arrived, the Marines marched in perfect step and presented the birthday cake as the Marines' Hymn played. The youngest and oldest Marines presentation followed and for the finale, the Adjutant read the order issued by Major General John A. Lejeune, the 13th Commandant of the USMC, which established the Corps Birthday observance in 1921.

The Commandant's message commemorates the birth of the Marine Corps on 10 Nov 1775 by a resolution of the Continental Congress. It is also calls on Marines to pay tribute to the memory of all those who have borne the title of Marine.

It is customary at Marine Corps birthday celebrations worldwide to cut a cake in celebration. This is a ritual where the first piece of cake is given to our guest of honor and the second to the oldest Marine present; Maj. James Robbins, age 51.

Upon receiving the second piece of cake, Maj. Robbins turned and passed the cake to the youngest Marine present; Lance Cpl. Lewis Kim, age 19. The passing of the cake signifies the passing of experience and knowledge from the old to the young of our Corps. Kim then received a third piece of cake emphasizing our values of taking care of our junior Marines before we look to our own needs.

Col. Gronski provided an introduction and opening remarks to all Marines and Soldiers in attendance. He then presented Col. Brier with a 2 BCT coin and patch.

Col. Brier then delivered an inspirational speech "Some people spend their whole lives wondering if they ever made

a difference," said Col. Brier during the opening and closing remarks of his speech. He then followed up on Col. Gronski's observation of the historic precedent being established by 2 BCT and Marine Corps in Iraq and how the Marine Corps and 2 BCT share common roots in the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Col. Brier presented Col. Gronski with the 6th CAG coin as a token of his appreciation for the excellent relationship created by 2 BCT and the Marine Corps.



Lance Cpl. Lewis Kim and Maj. James Robbins represent the youngest and the oldest Marines in attendance at the 6th Civil Affairs Group USMC B-Day celebration.

Photo by Capt. Robert Rowland

A special effort was made by 6th CAG to ensure that all former Marines that are now members of 2 BCT were personally invited to attend this historic celebration.



Everyone waiting for their cake, at one of the three Marine Corp Birthday celebrations held at Camp Ramadi.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli

This ceremony is important to all Marines, for it is an annual renewal of each Marine's commitment to the Corps and the Corps' commitment to our Nation's quest for peace and freedom worldwide.



3/7 Marines, at their Birthday Ball.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli

A TOUCH OF HOME

by Capt. Dana Tourangeau

We have been in Iraq for about 3 months now. The beige color of everything and the flat, barren landscape no longer strike us as peculiar. The heat (regularly above 100 Degrees) is becoming tolerable. I think it is safe to say that the "new" is beginning to wear off and that the environment around us is becoming the norm.

Recently, a generous family from New England adopted TF Saber's communications platoon. They send letters and care packages and most importantly, their prayers. Enclosed in the last care package they sent was a postcard with a photo. It depicted an old farm house and barn surrounded by an enormous field

filled with knee high corn growing in rich, dark brown soil. The neat and even rows seemed to converge as they stretched off into the distance. In the background you see a lush, green mountain capped with a bright blue sky and white pillow-like clouds.

After each member of the team took their turn staring at this farmhouse scene, wondering if they have driven by or noticed this farm previously, the postcard was proudly displayed

on the wall of our shop. Every day Soldiers come into the shop and are drawn to this majestic scene. They will stare at it for a moment, almost certainly reflecting on their own homes in the Green mountains, then will suddenly ask "Isn't this in Bethel...or Walden... or Richford?". Everyone thinks they have laid their eyes on this scene before.

Sometimes I find myself strangely drawn to this postcard; I catch myself staring, deep in thought. And I realize the reason everyone believes they have seen this before is because everywhere you are in the Green Mountain state is a rich, beautiful site just like this one. I don't believe that I truly appreciated the beauty of Vermont prior to my visit to the Middle East.

However, now I am in awe when I compare a mere photo of our wonderful home state to the landscape that the soldiers in this Task Force have grown accustomed to here in Iraq.

A Friendly voice:

A fellow Soldier in TF Saber had to get a waiver in order to deploy with this unit. He will turn 60 (the maximum age limit for the Army) prior to the end of this tour, thus requiring special permission to deploy. This true American also served in the Vietnam War. I enjoy talking to him about the contrast he has experienced between his deployment then and today.

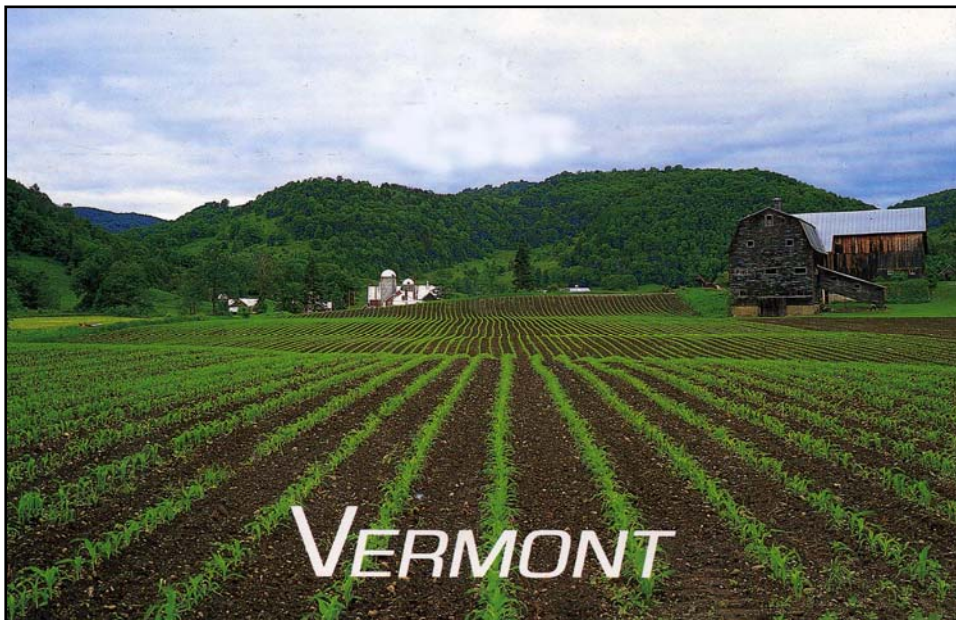
conferencing (VTC) ability very soon. Many Soldiers, including myself, use web based VOIP programs like SKYPE or YAHOO Messenger in order to place low cost, or in some cases, free calls home.

Every time, following one of these meal-time chats, I realize just how fortunate we are today compared to Soldiers who have fought in wars past. We now expend great amounts of effort and implement all this technology for the simple pursuit of a friendly voice from home.

It really is a small world:

After several weeks on the FOB

(Forward Operating Base) on which we live, I was able to start settling in to a morning routine of going to the gym for a daily workout. Our gym has several sets of dumbbells, Nautilus machines, and stationary bikes. One morning as I walked into the gym, I was hoping to get in a good cardio workout. Usually, I would go running, however running on the FOB is not very desirable due to the thick dust clouds which hover over heavily traveled areas.



The front of a postcard sent to Capt. Dana Tourangeau

One evening during chow, I asked him if he was able to call home during his tour in Vietnam. "Never", he stated, "Not like today, I can call home pretty near every day now." The primary means of communication home back then was through the U.S. Mail. Today it is through email, internet messaging and Voice Over IP (VOIP) calls.

Although TF Saber is located in an underdeveloped area of Iraq, with little power, sewer systems, or water, we have made great strides developing the area in which we currently reside. We have installed internet into the living quarters of most Soldiers, we have satellite based internet cafes and phone centers and plan to have Video Tele-

Off in the corner of the gym, I noticed a rowing machine so I figured I would give it a try. After a refreshing 30 minute rowing session, I stood up to stretch my legs and noticed a very familiar brand name on the side of this newly discovered machine. Concept II. A well known name of a local company in northern Vermont which builds high end rowing machines and racing oars. Upon further investigation, I read that this particular machine was constructed in Morrisville, VT, merely 10 miles from my home town.

It is amazing that I traveled 6,000 miles around the world, to a strange and unfamiliar land only to find a little touch of home in a place I would never expect.

DEALER COMPANY STRIKES AGAIN

by Cpt. Charles Cannon

RAMADI, Iraq — In past weeks, Coalition and Iraqi Army forces have been very successful in discovering insurgent caches. In particular, the Soldiers of Dealer Company, Task Force (TF) 2-69 Armor seem to have found the right stuff for uncovering numerous caches in the eastern section of Ramadi.

gent activity, received them well, particularly the IA Soldiers. Several citizens approached the Iraqi Soldiers asking them to stay longer. "We wish that they would stay here longer. We need them for some added protection," said local Iraqi, Abdul Ibrahim, through the use of an Iraqi interpreter.

corner in this part of the city, which in the past has not been particularly friendly to us," he said.

Concurrently, the Johnstown, Pa, Sapper Platoon began its pursuit for possible concealed enemy weapons caches hidden in the undulating desert sand that surrounds the lower portion of the district. With the support of a number of technological tools in the engineer hand bag, the Sappers struck pay dirt soon after the start of the mission.

Buried below almost three feet of desert sand, the Johnstown, Pa, Soldiers hit the jackpot by locating almost 30 different categories of insurgent weapons ranging from 120mm mortar rounds, grenades, fuses, linked small-arms ammunition, Russian made binoculars, grenades, and a multitude of IED making materials and equipment.

The Sapper Platoon, having been used extensively by TF 2-69 Armor to assist in finding hidden caches, chalked the find up to, "Another mission well executed." "We are beginning to get used to finding these caches whenever we go out. That's what we do. We are a lot smarter than the insurgents and we have better capabilities and equipment, so if it's out there, we will find it," said Sapper Platoon leader 2nd Lt. Christopher Wike of Ebsburg, Pa. "It's only a matter of time," Wike said.

Dealer Company and TF 2-69 Armor will continue to conduct operations in the eastern district of Ramadi during its remaining time on the ground here in Iraq.

Operation Sagebrush set a precedent that both TF 2-69 and the 3-2-1 Iraqi Army hope will continue: not a single shot was fired throughout the duration of the operation. That's not only good news for the Speed and Power battalion and the Iraqi Army battalion; it's also good news for the local citizens of eastern Ramadi.

"I think we are turning the corner in this part of the city, which in the past has not been particularly friendly to us,"



2nd Platoon, Charlie Co. 876th Engineer Soldiers scanned through almost three feet of desert sand to locate hidden enemy weapons caches.

Photos Submitted by: 2-69 Armor

Termed *Operation Sagebrush*, Dealer Company, along with elements of the 3-2-1 Iraqi Army(IA) and the 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company 876th Engineers, from Johnstown, Pa. set out to conduct a "walk and talk" operation in selected areas of the southeast portion of Ramadi.

A particular area in the city, known to Dealer Company as a hot bed of insur-

Throughout the mission, members of the IA patrolled through the target areas while inviting the local citizens to interact with them on a personal level. Children's coloring books, improvised explosive device (IED) tip line information, and flyers addressing the overwhelming successes of the recent October 15th referendum were all exchanged from the hands of the Iraqi Army Soldiers to the hands of local Ramadi citizens.

Dealer Company Commander, Capt. Roy Bolar, was especially pleased with the progress made by the Iraqi Army and its interaction with the locals. "It's good to see the local Iraqi citizens receive the Iraqi Army Soldiers in this manner. I think it will be good for their confidence; the IA Soldiers are finding out that the people want them here to protect them," said Bolar.

Bolar, a resident of Manchester, Ohio, hopes to conduct more missions in the future, and expects to encounter the same results. "I think we are turning the



Soldiers from Charlie Company, 876 Engineers, shortly after discovering another cache.

IRAQI & U.S. FORCES TURN UP CACHE

by 1st. Lt. Monica Luongo

On the morning of November 1st, Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Division were working with a small element from B Co, 861st Engineers, when they began taking fire from insurgents outside of a Sheik Meeting house. Insurgents thought they trapped the Soldiers and attempted to ambush them there.

The Iraqi Soldiers surprised them though, and at the end of the day the Soldiers went home knowing they defeated the insurgents that morning, something they will continue to do until all sheiks and their tribes are safe from the terrorists that plague the Al Anbar province.

The patrol was on the outskirts of Ramadi, attempting to identify areas that need improvement such as water purification, schools, and road repair. While speaking with a sheik, Soldiers and officers began taking direct fire from terrorists.

Everyone ran into the house for safety while the Iraqi Soldiers moved on to find the careless insurgents who were shooting at an unarmed household.

When the Iraqi and American Soldiers engaged the terrorists, they found them with weapons strapped to their backs, and even more weapons loaded into the trunks of their cars.

They discovered contraband material, attack plans, and enough rounds to kill all the families in the area where they were firing.



(left to right) Sgt. Earle Tammelleo and Spc. Andrew Costa with two Iraqi soldiers on patrol.
Photos submitted by: 876 Engineers

When the gun fight ended, there were several cars destroyed, lots of munitions and contraband, and several dead insurgents.

Reports assessing the Iraqi Army's success suggest there were anywhere from eight to ten insurgents killed in the battle. Not a single Soldier was wounded.

This is not the first time the Soldiers from Rhode Island's Engineers have worked with the Iraqi Soldiers.

"We see an improvement with each mission we go one with the Iraqi Army," says Commander Captain Brian Thornton.

The troops from the States enjoy working along side the Iraqis.

"The better they are, the sooner we can all go home," states Sergeant Earle Tammelleo who was on the patrol that day. "They [Iraqi Soldiers] proved themselves that day to all of us...I'd work with them any day of the week."

The progress the Iraqi army has made is great. Many of the Soldiers are new recruits; some are former military under the old Regime.

They now train along side the best, the US Military, so they can assume full responsibility for all military operations in Iraq. Each day they are one step closer to doing just that.



Some of the many munitions and weapons that were found in the vehicles of the insurgents before they were destroyed by the Iraqi Army.

THE WARRIOR WITHIN

By 1st Lt. Cody D. Workman



Spec. Benjamin Carrick prepares to go out on a mission with the Triple Deuce.

Most of our generation is able to readily recall exactly where we were and what we were doing when we heard of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Spec. Benjamin Carrick says, "I was working on a cabin in the Sanpete Valley when I heard the news over the phone. My older brother's wife was in the first tower at the time. She got out fine, but I was still pretty angry."

Emotions such as this have spurred people into various forms of action throughout the history of the world. Most Americans expressed their emotion at this time by hanging a new American flag in their yard. Ben Carrick had a stronger reaction. He explains, "I felt that something had to be done about it, so I figured that if I felt that way, I may as well be the one to do something about it."

The charismatic Soldier continues

with his trademark smile, "I have always had a knack for being good at things that don't pay well." With that, the 28 year-old patriotic father of three children, talked to his business partner and his family and made arrangements to join the 19th Special Forces. By January 2002, he was in Army Basic Training, then on to Airborne School. The it was 8 months at Fort Bragg for Special Forces training before moving back to Utah.

A natural leader, Spec. Carrick enrolled in the Utah Valley State College ROTC program and was serving as a cadet in the 1-145th FA when he heard of the Triple Deuce's deployment. Feeling that this was his opportunity to finally make good on his intention to "do something about it," he volunteered to deploy to Iraq with the 2-222.

From the time that Carrick joined Bravo Battery in Mississippi, he has been an asset to the unit. His technical and tactical knowledge of infantry skills supplemented the training that the battery received in Mississippi. He has continuously proven to be a loyal and hard working friend to all.

Carrick will be the first to tell you that this deployment is not what he expected. His construction skills have been put to use to build everything from beds and shelves to a flagpole that proudly displays our country's Color outside the

Warrior Command Post.

His infantry skills have been utilized in providing convoy security, crowd control, and even assaulting an island with a team assembled and led by the Battalion Commander. The combination of his positive attitude, military bearing, and tactical proficiency has resulted in regular requests to Bravo Battery for Spec. Carrick to accompany More senior leaders on a myriad of missions.

When asked how he feels about the variety of missions he has seen since arriving in country, he smiles and says "it all pays the same."

Spec. Carrick is an asset whose influence is felt far beyond Bravo Battery. He is a humble man who attributes much of his positive attitude and success to his wife of 14 years and his three children. When asked how he feels about being here in Iraq, he says, "it has been a good learning experience and it has showed me what I want to do with my military career." His plans? "Active duty Army. Definitely a light infantry unit of some type."

Spec. Benjamin Carrick, we are all grateful that you heeded the call of the Warrior within and we know that you will undoubtedly continue to be a strong positive influence throughout your military career.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

*The mailing deadlines for Christmas packages are: November 26, for space available packages and December 5, for priority mail.
Get Your Packages sent soon.*



2ND BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM IRON SOLDIERS IN ACTION



2nd Platoon, Charlie Co., 876th Engineer Soldiers scanned through almost three feet of desert sand to locate hidden enemy weapons caches.

Picture Submitted by: 2-69 Armor



LtCol Jackson at Women's & Children's Hospital, helping unload the supplies.

Pictures Submitted by: CAG



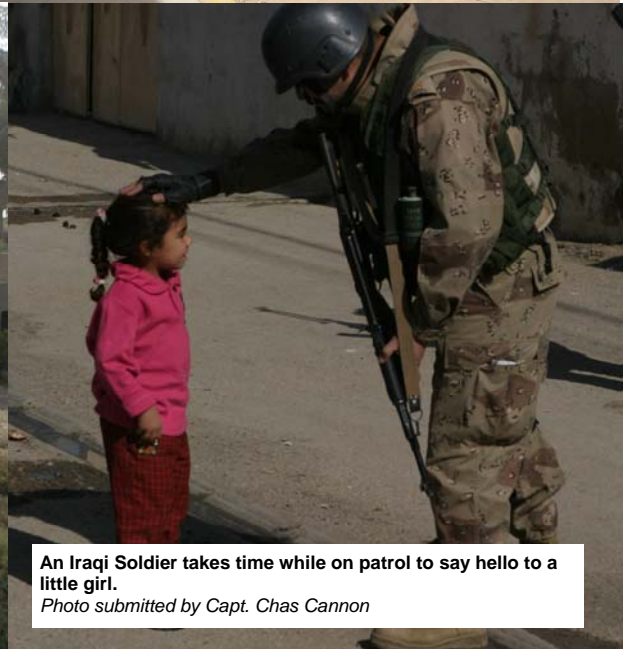
Spc. Darin Nelson, a member of the 167 Cav. performs a counter sniper mission.

Picture by: SFC. Richard Scariaciottoli



An Iraqi Soldier takes time while on patrol to say hello to a little girl.

Photo submitted by Capt. Chas Cannon



Send your pics to SFC Scary (Richard.Scariaciottoli@us.army.mil) Include a brief description and who took the pic.



Explosive Ordnance Disposal experts serving with the U.S. Marines pull security immediately after coming off of a helicopter in Ramadi.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli



Spec. O'Callaghan, a member of the 1-103rd Armor, at Bp 4 position, with his 240 Bravo just after an attack against his Observation Post.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli



Sgt. 1st Class David Hamilton of Philadelphia, Pa. inspects observation positions in Ramadi.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli



Lt Col. Turner, of the 3-7 Marines cutting the cake
Photo by: Cpl. Shane Suzuki



The oldest Marine Sgt. Maj. Kilgore giving cake to the youngest Marine, Lance Corporal Dewayne Butterorth. At the Hurricane Point celebration.
Photo by: Cpl. Shane Suzuki

KEEPING TASK FORCE SABER ROLLING

by Capt. Robert Beaudry

The maintenance section of Task Force Saber has changed significantly since the start of our deployment in January. When we deployed, the maintenance section was comprised of numerous mechanics from units in Vermont. Shortly after arriving at Camp Shelby, the battalion's task organization changed for the first time. The addition of B Troop, 1-104 CAV brought three new mechanics and one ULLS clerk from Pennsylvania. These new mechanics were easily incorporated into the maintenance section. The Pennsylvania Soldiers brought some much needed skills to the battalion.

While the war takes place outside the FOB (Forward Operating Base), the mechanics fight to keep the equipment humming in the motor pool.

The second change to the task force happened just two weeks before Task Force Saber crossed over the berm from Kuwait to Iraq. The addition to the battalion of B Company, 1-109 IN brought some necessary combat power in the form of M2A2 Bradleys. The 109th

brought eight new mechanics and one ULLS clerk to the team. This increased the size of Saber's maintenance platoon considerably. Bradleys were a new piece of equipment for the battalion. The 109th mechanics quickly integrated in the platoon and proved their skills as high quality maintainers.

With the broad level of skills now in the maintenance platoon, Task Force Saber is able to meet the battalion's maintenance needs by operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These mechanics support numerous vehicles, generators, and various fabrication jobs.

While the war takes place outside the FOB (Forward Operating Base), the mechanics fight to keep the equipment humming in the motor pool. Keeping the war fighters and support personnel in mission capable vehicles requires tremendous dedication by the maintenance team. This is no easy feat in sanitary shop conditions back in the States. Here in Iraq the mechanics work in blistering heat with constant dust in the work area. Working at night is accomplished with the help of two large generator light sets.

In addition to the maintenance work Task Force Saber's recovery section has been tasked to man an Observation Point with their M88 Recovery vehicle

24 hours a day. The recovery section is responsible for reacting to vehicle accidents or breakdowns along our main supply routes. Coupled with a M113 that is manned by medics from the battalion, these services are appreciated by all who have had to use them.

Hours of staying vigilant and dealing with extreme weather conditions, make performing recovery tasks very different from what the mechanics in the motor pool perform. Recovery duties require highly skilled Soldiers who can evaluate and perform a recovery mission in very short time; usually under extremely difficult and tense situations.

All of the Task Force Saber maintenance Soldiers work hard to keep the battalion rolling. Recently they had the rare chance to relax for a couple of hours and enjoy a Labor Day BBQ. This gave the platoon a chance to take a break during the work day and enjoy themselves in a more social environment. Since arriving in the South West Asia theater, this was their first opportunity to enjoy an "almost home" BBQ together.

The mechanics are dedicated to the tasks they have been assigned and will continue to support the battalion in the professional manner to which the units have grown accustomed.



The maintenance section of Task Force Saber has changed significantly since the start of their deployment in January, 2005.
Picture Submitted by: 1-172

BEHIND THE SCENES IN IRAQ

by 1st Lt. Monica Luongo & Sgt. Charity Lewis

RAMADI, Iraq - There is more to the war on terrorism than many people may see on the news or read about in the newspaper. It is a war, however there is more to it than the negative images that make the headlines every day. In their short tour inside one of Iraq's most dangerous military bases, a Marine Corps Civil Affairs Group has accomplished much more than the people of the United States know about.

Since their arrival in March 2005, the 5th CAG has been able to bring over three million dollars in donations to the citizens of Ramadi.

The man who has made much of this possible is Master Sergeant John Ubaldi. A resident of Sacramento California, Ubaldi has been working along side several different Non-Governmental Organizations [NGOs] since 2002. He has aided in getting donations to places in the Middle East which need them. With his guiding hand, citizens throughout Afghanistan and Iraq have been able to accept donations from across the United States.

Over 1400 backpacks were donated from a community in Iowa and \$1.8M in medical supplies from InMed, Inc. to the citizens of Iraq; another 1,000 school bags and 5000 pairs of shoes went to children in Afghanistan.

With all of the smiles this brings to care givers, parents and children across the Middle East, the enormous amount of renovation the CAG has coordinated sometimes goes unnoticed.

The 5th CAG completed their deployment in Iraq in September 2005, but Ubaldi has no intentions of giving up complete involvement. His intentions are



Iraqi soldiers roll boxes of medical supplies on a hospital bed, into the hospital.

Photo by: Cpl. Hudzinski

to continue to help make that connection between the millions of people across the states who want to help in some way, to the millions of citizens in Iraq that are in need of aid.

"It is difficult sometimes, said Ubaldi. So many people want to help, want to be involved, but don't know how." For Ubaldi, like many Soldiers, it is rewarding work. It is never easy but the outcomes are always worth their weight in gold.

The work the Civil Affairs Group has accomplished is no different than the work of so many others across Iraq, though these are the stories that many times are never heard.

The most recent project has been a \$1.8 million donation of medical supplies delivered to the Women and Children's hospital of Ramadi. Delivery was arranged by Marines with the Director General of Health for Al Anbar, Dr. Rafe' Hyaad Chiad.

Once arrangements were made, Iraqi Army Soldiers assisted with the delivery while members of a Marine Corps unit helped to provide security in the area.

This particular project originally started with 3rd CAG over a year ago. Getting cargo shipped to Iraq is no small task, and when there is a large cargo the task becomes even more difficult. The final result, six large pallets of donated items.

Thanks to help from Federal Express, expense is not a problem; they donate all the shipping in an effort to help the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The InMed donation included such things as hospital gowns, bed sheets, Hydrocortisone Cream, and cases of over the counter medications as well as prescription medications.

These supplies will greatly benefit the women and children of Al Anbar.

The employees of the hospital were very eager to receive the supplies and assisted the Iraqi Soldiers with unloading them.

Citizens gathered around the hospital almost immediately in anticipation of being able to be cared for.

There are times that basic medical needs cannot be met; however, today the hospital will be able to help the citizens of Al Anbar thanks to the generosity of American citizens as well as InMed, Inc, Spirit of America, and the Civil Affairs Group.

InMed, Inc. and Spirit of America are non-profit organizations helping the Soldiers and citizens of Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information on their continuing projects, log on to:

<http://www.spiritofamerica.net> and
<http://www.inmed.org>



Dr. Essa, Medical Director of the WCH, overseeing delivery of supplies.

Photo submitted by: CAG

MR. RALSTON'S CLASS

By Sgt. Charity Lewis

RAMADI, IRAQ-Support for Soldiers sometimes comes from the most unexpected places. Soldiers receive letters every day, sent by thankful Americans they never met.

So when the letters from 22 students from Parkview Intermediate School in Bedford, Indiana arrived at Camp Ramadi it was no surprise. What was a surprise were the photos of a bulletin board that the students have put together.

It was started out of support for a hometown soldier and grew into a dedication

to a Brigade.

"Each year I try to have my students do something special for the nursing homes and/or the community during the school year," said fourth grade teacher Greg Ralston.

Ralston stated that this year when we found out that Sgt. Charity Lewis, a local Lawrence County citizen, was in Iraq, we thought her unit would be a good one to adopt because of the local ties.

"A bulletin board in our classroom displays many of the Soldiers' pictures and

The Iron Soldier newsletter for students to read, said Ralston."

The students wanted to write to the soldiers to thank them for all that they are doing for them and for the people of Iraq. The class is grateful to have their freedom to play sports and to go to school. Ralston felt by writing to the soldiers, his students would get practice in writing down their thoughts.

The Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen of the 2 BCT would like to express our extreme appreciation to every student for their support and dedication.



Mr. Ralston's class posed in front of their tribute to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Third Row: Christian, Sarah S., Mollie, Amber, Jenna, Torie, Robert, Chase, Samantha,

Second Row: Megan, Callie, Sarah H., Tasha, Fox, Isaiah, Hunter

First Row (L to R): George, Sammy, Justin, Michaela

A NEW SECURITY APPROACH

by 1st Lt. Antonia Greene

HABBANIYAH, IRAQ – Task Force (TF) Panther recently changed their approach to highway security, incorporating more than the traditional tank patrols.

Highway 10 is one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq. TF Panther's primary mission is to keep the Main Supply Route (MSR) free and clear of improvised explosive devices (IED) and illegal checkpoints. The route must remain relatively safe and easily accessible by both military and civilian traffic. It serves as a direct link between Fallujah and Ramadi, two major cities in the Al Anbar Province.

According to recent reports, a nearby section of Highway 10 within AO Panther was identified as one of the most dangerous areas this past year, thereby earning itself the nickname "IED Alley." Traditionally, units have dedicated only their heavy assets (Armor and mechanized Infantry), to MSR security. TF Panther



Task Force (TF) Panther recently changed their approach to highway security, incorporating more than the traditional tank patrols.
Photo Submitted by: 1st Lt. Antonia Greene

decided it was time to change it up, presenting a new and more effective course of action.

Since the start there have been several noticeable advantages. According to 1st Lt. Christopher McLaud, C Co. 103rd Armor, 2nd Platoon Leader, "We have enhanced our aggressiveness and reaction time." Through the use of heavy and light tactical vehicles, cordon

and searches of businesses and residential buildings are more efficiently coordinated, thereby providing both an inner and outer security perimeter. Furthermore, having light Infantry vehicles out in sector conducting 'thunder runs' up and down the MSR serves a dual purpose. This patrol is a roaming quick reaction force (QRF) to respond to MSR disturbances such as possible suspicious vehicles and personnel searches." 1st Lt. Jason Eichler, B Co. 125th Infantry, 1st Platoon Leader, claims this fresh approach to MSR security, "Keeps the enemy off balance."

This new security tactic encourages TF Panther Soldiers to further develop their strategic coordination and strengthens team building between the line companies and TF enablers.

If things continue to go according to plan, Highway 10 will be more secure and coalition forces and the Iraqi people will be safer, day by day.

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

by 1st Lt. Antonia Greene

HABBANIYAH, Iraq – On the morning of November 11th, 2005, members of Task Force Panther took time to honor their fallen heroes; all the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



Lt. Col. Loris F. Lepri, TF Panther Commander, spoke to the service men and women about the sacrifices that have been made by our country's veterans.
Photos Submitted by: 1st Lt. Antonia Greene

Outside the Panther Tactical Operations Center, representatives of all military forces at the Habbaniyah Forward Operating Base gathered around

the post flag-pole in observance of Veteran's Day.

The ceremony was initiated with a Twenty-One Gun Salute led by Alpha Company's 1-110th Infantry 1st Sgt. Robert Nelson. Those in attendance observed a moment of silence to remember all those who have given their lives for the sake of freedom and to reflect on the sacrifices made by our own WARRIORS and HEROES on the battlefield.

On this occasion, Lt. Col. Loris F. Lepri, TF Panther Commander, spoke to the service men and women about the sacrifices that have been made by our country's veterans and the continued devotion of today's military to follow in the footsteps of those who have bravely gone before us. "All the members of TF Panther should be proud not only of our national heritage but also of our military heritage," he said.

The dedication was marked by a brief recalling of those TF Panther members who have made the ultimate sacrifice. They will never be forgotten:

Staff Sgt. Ryan S. Ostrom (9 August 2005), Sgt. Brian Dunlap (24 September 2005), Spc. Timothy Brown (4 November 2005), Gunnery Sgt. Darrell Boatman (4 November 2005), Staff Sgt. Michael Parrott (10 November 2005), and Sgt. Joshua Terando (10 November 2005).



The Veteran's Day Ceremony was initiated with a Twenty-One Gun Salute led by Alpha Company's 1-110th Infantry 1st Sgt. Robert Nelson.

MITT TEAMS ARE BUILDING UP ISF

by Cpl. Shane Suzuki

AR RAMADI, Iraq (Oct. 14, 2005) -- One of the biggest challenges, and key factors in creating a stable Iraqi state is helping to create and train a national army that can protect and uphold the principles of freedom that Coalition Forces is fighting for.

The Military Transition Team was created. To help provide a quality training regime, and to help organize efforts by coalition forces to create Iraqi led and trained soldiers. While starting off slowly with much publicized recruiting troubles and retention issues, the MiTT teams have since organized a, "fighting force that will be able to protect Iraq's domestic interests", said 2nd Lt. Erik Keim, a logistics advisor with the MiTT team based at Camp Ramadi.

"I've been working with the Iraqis for five months now, and have seen a huge improvement out of them," said the Casper, Wyo., native. "We are getting the (Iraqi Security Forces) ready for the next step in their evolution, which is autonomy."

The recent University of Wyoming graduate volunteered to be part of the MiTT team so he could come to Iraq, experience what life was like here, and make a difference before returning to his normal unit back in the states.



The Marine MiTT team, out on patrol with Iraqi Soldiers.
Photo by: Cpl. Shane Suzuki

"My unit was just getting back from Iraq and wasn't going to leave for more than a year from when I got there," he said. "I wanted some experience before I deployed with my battalion and this opportunity came up."

Although challenging at times, Keim likes being able to say he made a difference while in Iraq, especially with his work in the recent constitutional referendum vote. One of the platoons Keim worked with at Camp Ramadi was in charge of providing security and maintaining order at one polling sites in Ar Ramadi and he came along to supervise and observe the ISF setting up and running the site.

"We did an exercise about a month ago, where each Iraqi company set up a strong point, did day and night patrols,

handled peaceful and angry crowd control situations, and handled things like car bombers and suicide bomber attacks," said Keim. "Our companies did very well in those exercises. We also did a polling situation where they had to search people quickly and effectively and get them through the polls. It was a lot like what they had to go through here."

The day before the elections, the ISF

workers set up the site, reinforced windows and doors with sand bags, set up voting stations inside the building and maintained security positions around the facility. Their work allowed the Marines of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment to maintain a cordon and stay out of the election process, further exemplifying to the Iraqi people that their ISF is making huge strides forward.

"They are watching everything we do here, but it feels good to know we are making a difference," he said. "Almost on a daily basis we are reminded that we are the tip of the spear. Preparing the Iraqi people to handle their own security is a main reason for us being here. It's challenging but I actually enjoy it. When this war is over, I will know I had a direct impact on helping this country."

CORPSMAN

Continued From Cover

lented in his duty to his Marines.

"There are no words for what he did," said Frustaglio. "The explosion was catastrophic, it blew the door off the Humvee and threw it 30-plus meters. Those doors weigh more than 300 pounds. When I got to (Leoncio) he was in pain, but he began telling me what to do. He was so calm, he was injured but he was telling me how and where to put the tourniquet on his leg."

One of the casualties in the vehicle, 1st Lt. Bradley Watson, helped move Leoncio to the medevac vehicle and provided buddy aid to him while they were trans-

ported to Camp Ramadi for surgical evacuation.

"I helped pull Hospitalman Leoncio into the medevac Humvee and personally saw him wince in pain as he rolled over, opened his medical kit and treated 2nd Lt. Hendricks's shrapnel wound," said Watson. "When he saw that Hendricks bleeding had stopped, he gave Corporal Belmont and I instructions on how to best care for him. He was calm, alert and responsive the entire way to Ramadi Medical. The only thing he asked for were that someone hold his hand to keep him awake and give him sips of water."

Although his courage and dedication were highlighted during the horrible events of Oct. 4, the Marines of Company L were not surprised at "Doc Leo's" courage under fire and performance through pain.

"Doc Leo is a real good guy, he is always helping Marines with anything he can," said Luedke. "He is, overall, the nicest guy I've met in the military. He wanted to be here, in Iraq. He said before that the only reason he joined the Navy was to be a corpsman and serve with Marines in Iraq."

The Iron Soldier is a publication of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division (M). It is produced by the Public Affairs Office of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team

Public Affairs Office

Brigade PAO
2/28TH BCT - Camp Ar-Ramadi
APO, AE 09362-9997

Brigade Commander

Col. John L. Gronski

Deputy Commander

Col. Regis A. Cardiff

Brigade Command Sgt. Major

CSM Horace C. Pysher

Executive Officer

Lt. Col. Christopher T. Yeakle

Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Alfred A. Smith
alfred.a.smith@us.army.mil

Public Affairs Team

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scariaciotoli
richard.scariaciotoli@us.army.mil
Spc. Samantha Kerschner

Public Affairs Representatives

HHC 2/28 B.C.T.

Maj. Trish Price
1st Lt. Rose Forrest
Spc. Kimberly Calvert

876th Engineers Battalion

Maj. Chuck Kim
1st Lt. Monica Luongo
Master Sgt. Michael Henry

HHC 876th Engineers

Staff Sgt. Dominic Mazza
Sgt. Michael Dubovecky

135th Engineers

Sgt. Robert Foreman

861st Engineers

1st Lt. Russell Degraw
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cribari

228th Forward Support Battalion

Capt. Jason Guerrettaz
Staff Sgt. Marcie Ficht
Sgt. Michelle Lynn
Spc. Aaron Berger
Spc. Kroll

222nd Field Artillery

Maj. Sterling Mc Murrin

104th U.S. Cavalry

Sgt. 1st Class Ben Gomez

231st Military Intelligence

1st Lt. Chris Lew

A Co. 138th Signal Battalion

2nd Lt. Erick McCorkle
Sgt. Matt Wright
Spc. Chris Greuter

1/109th Infantry & A Co. 3/103rd Armor

Capt. Patrick R. Monahan

1/110th Infantry & C Co. 1/103rd Armor

1st Lt. Antonia Greene
1st Lt. David Catherman
2nd Lt. Sean Bufano

1/172nd Armor

Sgt. 1st Class Michael S. Currier

1/167 U.S. Cavalry

1st Lt. Jacques Smith
1st Lt. James Belprez

2/69 Armor

Capt. Charles Cannon

Take a Survey for The Philadelphia Inquirer

Sandy Bauers, a reporter for The Philadelphia Inquirer needs your help to gather information for a story that she is currently working on.

In Sandy Bauers' own words:

The story is about whether there's a difference between today's nearly instant e-mails and the two-weeks-to-deliver snail mail.

Does the different format change what people say? Are they more forthcoming or less?

Is the wife reluctant to say the roof is leaking because she knows the husband will worry or try to leap in and help? If he does, will that distract him from his mission?

Or is the opposite true? Does the Soldier in Iraq treasure that close link with the family back home? Does it make for a happier, more committed Soldier? Does, say, daily e-mail contact ease the minds of the folks back home?

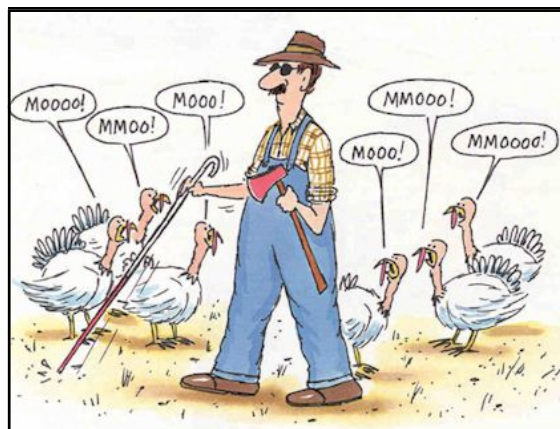
I'm sure there are a lot of different answers for different people, but that's what I'd like to explore.

To respond to this survey, please contact Sandy Bauers at the following e-mail address:

sbauers@phillynews.com

Or you can snail mail her at:

Sandy Bauers, Reporter
The Philadelphia Inquirer
120 N. High Street
West Chester, PA 19380
Phone: 610-701-7635



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

Have a story or picture for the Iron Soldiers?



Contributions from all Soldiers throughout the 2nd Brigade Combat Team are encouraged for consideration. Please enclose a detailed description of the people (name, rank and unit) and subject matter for each story and photo. Include your name, unit and contact information.

Contact your unit Public Affairs Rep located on the left side of this page or send an email to richard.scariaciotoli@us.army.mil



In Memory Of
Staff Sgt. Vincent Summers
Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion-69th Armor



In Memory Of
Specialist Richard Hardy
Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion-69th Armor



In Memory Of
Specialist Thomas Byrd
Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion-69th Armor



In Memory Of
Staff Sgt. Daniel Lightner
28th Military Police

REST IN PEACE, WARRIORS



In Memory Of
Specialist Jeffery Corban
Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion-69th Armor



In Memory Of
Specialist Timothy Watkins
Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion-69th Armor



In Memory Of
Lance Cpl. Jonathan Spears
India Company, 3rd Battalion-7th Marines